



MARAD Update



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MARAD's Western Region Director Promoted to Rear Admiral in the United States Maritime Service

Acting Maritime Administrator John Jamian promoted Francis (Frank) Johnston, the Maritime Administration's Western Region Director, on March 24, 2005, to the rank of Rear Admiral in the United States Maritime Service.

A special event was held in the Rear Admiral's honor on April 30 at the California Maritime Academy, which was attended by friends and supporters of the maritime industry including Admiral Thomas H. Collins, Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, Marie, the Rear Admiral's wife, and children.

Frank Johnston is a distinguished alumni of the Massachusetts Maritime Academy. Following graduation there, he served with distinction in the U.S. Navy. He actively sailed in the U.S. Merchant Marine from 1962 to 1966.

As the senior maritime management official in the western region of the United States, Frank has devoted much time to working with the faculty, students, and staff at the California Maritime Academy. His commitment to education and teaching is exemplary and it shows in his many voyages on the Training Ship *Golden Bear*. Frank has been a driving force in helping graduates from our merchant marine academies develop their careers.



Rear Admiral Francis Johnston, United States Maritime Service, standing in front of the TS Golden Bear.

In addition to his domestic and sea duty, Frank has worked in port facilities in Massachusetts and California and has served internationally, managing the Port of Ras Al Mishab, Saudi Arabia, and then directing transportation for one of Saudi Arabia's largest trucking companies.

MARAD Headquarters Observes National Maritime Day 2005

MARAD Headquarters' National Maritime Day observance played to a packed house on May 19 in the U.S. Navy Memorial Auditorium in downtown Washington, DC. Honorees and family members gracefully accepted acknowledgment for their contributions to the country and the maritime industry.

U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao, as keynote speaker, praised the current work of U.S. mariners. "It is in part due to the service of the U.S. Merchant Marine that America sustains the strongest military force the world has ever known," she said. "When the history of this era is written, the U.S. Merchant Marine will be remembered as part of the effort to toppling a brutal regime and helping to build a stable, democratic Iraq."

A video presentation told the story of the creation of the U.S. Merchant Marine flag and seal, and the ceremony honored Captain George Bark, USMS, for his role and the family of the late Walter Oates for his role.

Carmella LaSpada, Executive Director of the White House Commission on Remembrance, spoke movingly about the National Moment of Remembrance. The National Moment of Remembrance, established by Congress, asks Americans wherever they are on Memorial Day at 3:00 p.m., local time, to pause in an act of national unity (duration: one minute) to honor those who died for our freedom.

Capt. George Bark, USMS, (middle) receiving a certificate of appreciation for his role in the creation of the Merchant Marine flag and seal from Acting Maritime Administrator John Jamian (right). Kevin Krick, Senior Advisor for Maritime Policy, standing on the left.

